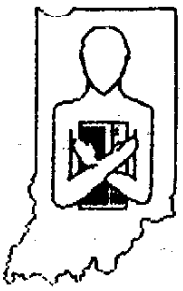

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MARCH, 1984 THE HUGgers NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS IN

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

For this March, you can expect more wind than usual since the candidates vying in the national election are 'storming' the country to get out the vote. Well, things are not all that different for the Hoosier Users Group. Every year is an election year for our Officers. So far the Nominating Committee (myself, Mark Bladoe, and anyone else interested) has received notice of intent to run from Steve Sims (for the Office of President), Barb Uhrig (for the office of Secretary), and Indpls' Bill Jones for the Office of Treasurer). Obviously we are now looking for the candidate seeking the Office of Vice President. Part of this individual's responsibilities will be the 'care and feeding of our ever growing User Group Library. [Thank you Phil Caldwell for you recent contributions!] Our Constitution has some very explicit guidelines regarding the election of officers, so if you are even remotely interested, please let us know and we will be glad to forward a copy for you to look over.

One of the pleasant suprises in the past month was a Care Package from TI that contained the manual and a diskette for implementing TI FORTH, a hybrid computer language that allows the programmer to construct programs that will run with the speed of Assembly language and yet are as easy to read/understand as BASIC. The only hitch, however, is that TI FORTH requires the Editor Assembler cartridge, 32K memory and a disk drive/controller. Editor Assembler cartridges are becoming harder to come by now that (according to my sources) TI has destroyed all the ones it could not sell. So if you don't already have the cartridge, this latest 'gift' from TI is like receiving one shoe for Christmas! For those of you who would like to learn another programming language, one that opens the door to many of the 99/4A's inner workings, then TI FORTH is just for you. The Users Group is investigating the cost of reproducing the manual and the diskette. The manual alone, if printed locally, would run about $18.00 (120 sheets X 2 sides X 7 cents plus punching/binding). If we have to provide the diskettes it will be a couple of dollars more. If interested, write or see one of the officers at the next meeting (March 11th).

During the 'dramatic pause' that the Hoosier Users Group has taken before setting up its own Bulletin Board System (BBS), Bob Brattain has been working to set up a BBS for TI owners/users. Final arrangements are being held up, not suprisingly, by a lack of funds. Your new or renewal membership and/or a special contribution to our BBS Fund would certainly move things along. The BBS Fund would be used only for that purpose and, in the event, we don't get

Continued, see page 2.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE MARCH 11, 1984, 2:00 P.M. AT MICROCOMPUTERS, INC., WEST-SIDE STORE!

DEMO: BULLETIN BOARD PROTOCOL

REGIONAL MEETINGS

East: March 15, 1984, 7:00 P.M.

South: March 24, 1984, 2:00 P.M.

See Page 2 for meeting locations in the "Regional News"

HUGger PROFILES -- Enclosed in this issue is a users profile. Please fill out and return them to the Officers at the March Monthly Meeting, or one of the regional meetings. If you cannot attend the monthly or regional meetings, please return to the Post Office Box NO LATER THAN APRIL 14, 1984.

NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE!

Newsletter back issues will be available for sale at the March Monthly Meeting. ALL back issues will be available starting with April, 1983, up to and including February, 1984. The price of each Newsletter, at this meeting ONLY, will be $2.00. The regular price of Newsletter back issues (set to the Post Office Box) is $2.50, plus a three week waiting period to fill your order. There are limited quantities of some of the early back issues so come early for the best selection.

CARE PACKAGE -- Ed Weist, Users Group Coordinator sent what may be our last "Care Package". Reproduced on Page 6, is the letter that he sent. Also on Page 6, is the TI 99/4A Memory Architecture Map.

TI FORTH IS RELEASED TO PUBLIC DOMAIN!

Not mentioned above, but also enclosed in the Care Package, was the programming language TI FORTH. If you are interested in getting a copy of TI FORTH, please read the President's Corner (to the left), and contact Don Donham at the next meeting.

President's Corner, cont'd.

it together, we would return your contribution. What could be more fair! We would like to keep most of our 'operating capital' in reserve for the expenses of the Newsletter, so your special contribution would be most appreciated.

It is rare that you get a second chance at success, so I envy Pam Sims who has successfully guided our Newsletter to national and international noteriety. Earlier this year it looked as though Pam's schedule would not allow her to continue as Editor of the Hoosier Users Group Newsletter; but now it seems that she has been, once again, sucessfully convinced to remain and continue to provide the kind of quality product that she well deserves credit for. Our success as a TI Users Group depends largely on the kind of communications we share among one another. Our Newsletter is a vital thread that binds together not only local TI users but remote TI users and third party vendors who can enrich our own home computing. This 'Newsletter Network' provides an invaluable channel of information to users at all levels of experience and interest. I am proud to say that Pam Sims has decided to continue as our Newsletter Editor. I am most confident that this will be an even more exciting chapter in the story of not only Pam's success but also the success of the Hoosier Users Group. We hope that every User's Group member will participate in this success story by not only reading our Newsletter, but also by writing and sharing through our Newsletter.

My many thanks for your support and encouragement during this past year or so. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Don Donlan, President.

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JOIN OUR USERS GROUPS OF OVER 300 MEMBERS

REGIONAL NEWS

EAST SIDE REGIONAL NEWS

The next East Side meeting will be h March 15 at Little Peoples Prep School starting at 7:00 p.m. Little Peoples Prep School is located at 6040 East Pleasant Run Parkway (East Pleasant Run Parkway & Arlington).

Our scheduled demonstration will be on the Adventue Series. I also will be in contact with the Officers about acquiring a copy of the HUGgers Library for our meeting.

If you plan to attend the meeting, or if you need directions to Little Peoples. My phone numbers are: Home: 353-1862, and Office: 357-9031.

Don Lang

SOUTH SIDE REGIONAL NEWS

Attendance was up for our second meeting. Eighteen people came, contributed, and, hopefully, benefitted from our session. Our next meeting will be Sat. Mar. 24, at my home--4582 Moccasin Pl., Greenwood. (881-5918). The meeting will begin at 2:00 P.M.

So far there has been little information about access to the club library. I am setting aside the hour before each meeting for people interested in reviewing and copying library programs. The next scheduled library hour will be Sat. Mar. 24, from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. Please call before coming for the library hour so there will not be more members than the system can accomodate at one time. Members can frequently have access to the library at other times--just call me to make an appointment. I'm home most evenings and week-ends. I want to make the library as accessable as possible.

We would like to increase the portion of time at our meetings for computer work and demonstrations. We are looking into the feasibility of making two consoles available so members can participate in the activity of greatest interest to them.

Someone asked at the Feb. Hugger meeting if you had to be a resident of a certain side of town to attend the regional meetings. NO! Any member is welcome to attend if they are interested.

Dennis Sherfy

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT "AXIOM" DIRECT-CONNECT PRINTERS!!

by Marc Blaydoe (call load(-31806,16)) KILLS ESCAPE KEY

At the last HUGgers meeting much interest was expressed about the Axiom Direct-Connect Printers. Mr. James Franks, Applications Engineer for Axiom Corporation has provided some information in addition to the brochures.

These printers connect to the TI 99/4A without the need for a P-Box or RS-232 interface. The biggest question at the last meeting was "where does the printer plug into the console?" According to Mr. Franks, the printer plugs into the same outlet that the P-Box and Speech Synthesizer use. However! Mr. Franks happily points out that we can still keep our P-Boxes plugged in!

The printer plug is a "t" connector with an extra port at a right angle to the connector to plug in other peripherals. The secret to the direct connect is a Centronics parallel to parallel interface. While the interface is not an RS-232 it has been designed to answer to the RS-232 port command in your software. By the way, the "bottom line" printer, the GP-100, has true descenders! (i .e., the lower case g's and y's look like g's and y's).

List prices for the Axiom printers are:

GP-100 $309
GP-550 $409
GP-700 $609 (A full color printer!)

Mr. Franks has promised to send us more info soon. If it gets here in time, we will give you an update at the next HUGgers meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A happy HUGger birthday to these March, 1983 members: Brian Miles, Edward Lewis, Michael McGraw, Sandra Biszantz, Edward & David McCartney, Carl, Marcia & Brian Richwine, Lonnie Shelton, David & Chris Fulton, John Stilz, Barney Green, Clarence Pence, Jeff Maxwell, Joseph Gardner, Larry Dennis, D & S Transportation, Robert Burroughs, Charles & David Cleveland, Bryant Diggo, and Hershell Maurer!

WELCOME!

And also a big welcome to these new HUGgers: Russell Pitz, Richard Burnette, Mike & Mirian Fuqua, Clarence Todd, Sr., Doris Wills, Larry Carmer, Lee Tanzer, John Barritt, Bruce Faucett, Doug Rogalla,

DON'T REPRESS THE URGE TO SUPRESS A SURGE!

I have heard from many of you who have power problems that are causing you great concern when you are using your computer. Perhaps you could avoid most of these problems by taking a few easy and inexpensive safety precautions. For instance, the December, 1983 issue of BYTE magazine features an article dealing with these problems. Read it! This guy was operating his computer during an electrical storm, an absolute no no!

You should be using a line voltage supressor with a maximum voltage tolerance of about 130 volts A.C. Some of these supressors don't knock the voltage down until it hits 500 volts! Needless to say, when it gets that high there isn't any point in worring about your equipment!

Try to keep your equipment away from flourescent lights, sas they can cause all sorts of quirks in your equipment. Especially a faulty starter in the older models. You can also have difficulties from a power drain or votage spike. These can be caused by an electrical appliance engaged with a high amperage drain on the same circuit as your computer; such as a dish washer, toaster, iron or refrigerator. This can cause a momentary change in power and it can affect, and sometimes, damage, your equipment. Avoid static electricity, as it is an instant killer for disks, tapes, and all electronic hardware! Use anti static spray on your carpet if it is a problem. With a little common sense you can avoid the problems, so go visit Radio Shack and spend a few dollars for some peace of mind and computer security!

Editor's Note: This article was taken, in full, from the 99/4 Users of America Newsletter in our ongoing Newsletter Exchange Program.

WORDSEARCH

This month's wordsearch theme is Extended BASIC. In the following wordsearch, there are 20, -- count'em 20 --, Extended BASIC words. The answers will appear in the April Issue of the HUGger Newsletter. And again ..... Good Searchin'!

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LFMIQVFLTRPXNOUYBUBTZHYAHPLAUHSY
FULMLJCQAMEHCRKZOCEYIKBHLKTPPCRE
IGCTZHJATEGAHIYUACCEPTATPMBYBQCC
WYWCMNLNLHLUNJABZOXAIFCFEUKKOMAH
BGKQDEMEHLZGUQAHJHWAIGCBHBKNZWIT
EIJOVADJCIJMNUCDBOTDMUVSGGWULCTX
VNEDRLUHJHMORDOTLTGUIOTQKAGPNFFC
OJQXETAWCHADYNGRSUMYNSDKRXPRHGLA
SYMRJRNORTIUGSZTTGPEQWPNZJCOXJHL
SDSOSJECZSMTYATIYYRLSQILLMGPNIVL
AXBEOFUAPAOMOXFYXRNCHNUMABCWBXDP
OGTRGYQLMMCNOEGXOLLRGBUMXYSBUTDE
GJLCHKALPDSABNSRHAIXGLUQPFUGUDCE
DBHDCYXIFLKBLRMJMJTNWWJUDBCSZNFK
IKRJAVPNKBZHRLEYPRGJPIJZODGNIAIT
IROTHAZIMYRRBXLAKZQSVUXIXTHQPNVS
BGSNVIMTEFMHMZJIKOJYGLTIIIDJKAQGR
WEZWAEZHRZJZLLBYNJWCYDSMMCMSXJTS
BFMNMIZDADJLDDOYXKUCOCCCAVOHRTIY
MZCZUSBDSFVVGNISUTNIRPQUGNWDINZL
QIZNILLUESLMMUQZVTMYPAONEGDVELZL
DIWZTWRRAKHASKRJOHNOISREVLLACQPS
WVEGYOYHLCOETIRPSLLACDJODJRAVYPX
KCIXIYXVLMEALOZVADVMRWNJASOANBBY
IYYQDAOLLLACQEGSHWVHEQCOJRNIQITB
```

The following is the answer to the February Wordsearch. I have included both the word list and the location guide..... Did you find all the game titles?

WORD LIST

PARSEC
TI INVADERS
HOPPER
BURGERTIME
YAHTZEE
VIDEOCHESS
MUNCHMAN
SLYMOIDS
STARTREK
SUPERDEMONATTACK
SNEGGITT
MOONMINE
CARWARS
HUSTLE
ALPINER
OTHELLO
CHISOLMTRAIL
TOMBSTONECITY
ADVENTURE
TUNNELSOFDOOM

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.............................
.M............T.............
.O............I.............
.O....SLYMOIDS...I...........
.N........B......N...........
.M.......U.......V...........
.I......K........A.C....H....
.N.....G...A.....D.HM....U...
.E....E...D.....SE.I.U...S....
.....R...V..Y..U.R.S..N....T..
....T...E..A..P..S.OC..C....L.
T..I...N..H..E.....L.A..H....E.
U.M...T..T..R......M..R..MS....
NE...U..Z..D.......T..SW.TA....
N...R..E..E........R...NA..N...
E..E..E..M.........AH..RER.....
L.......O...........I.OT..GS...
S......N............L.RP...G...
O.....A.............E..P...I...
F....T.SSEHCOEDIV..K....E...I..
D...T.....................R...T.
O..A.........................
O.COLLEHTOPARSECTOMBSTONECITY..
MK...........................
......ALPINER................
```

CARTRIDGE COMMENTS

AND

HARDWARE HINTS

Editor's Note: Cartridge Comments And Hardware Hints is a new HUGger Newsletter Regular Feature! Cartridge Comments And Hardware Hints will be a product evaluation column appearing frequently. Stay tuned to the April, 1984 HUGger Newsletter for more Cartridge Comments And Hardware Hints!

**** DONKEY KONG ****

by Bill Cagle
(a new Hugger)

This cartridge is marketed by Atari, as a part of the AtariSoft game software for the TI home computer. It is directly compatable with the TI 99/4 and TI 99/4A, and it is in the "under forty dollars" category.

When my son wanted to buy it, I told him not to expect to much, as most home video games do not even come close to the "arcade" versions and usually are disappointing to say ...e least. Well, this game is spectactular! ...e action is fast and challenging and the graphics are an absolute joy to watch.

The game is divided up into levels and screens get harder with each level. When you reach the third level, you get all of the three different screens. The game gives you another man at the seven-thousand score level and this is the only extra men you get.

The first screen, is the famous one, where King Kong rolls barrels down on our hero. The more time you take to rescue his girl friend, the more barrels he will roll down. There also is a bonus clock that counts down your bonus score also. When you jump a barrel you get 100 points, but when you jump two at once, you get 300 points. You still must to get a good bonus score as the bonus score is decreased by 100 every two seconds.

The documentation that come with the game is brief but well done in five colors. The game is well defined and it even has some tips on strategy. The cartridge is well built and the case is very strong.

Space doesn't allow me to describe all of this very good game, but I think that this is ...e very best game I have ever seen on a home computer. I would have to give this one a rating of 9.5, on a scale of 1 to 10.

Well, thats all folks! See you around the old joy-stiks!

BEST OF THE NEWSLETTER

THINGS TI NEVER TOLD US

I do not know if this will be of any interest to anyone (probably everyone knows it already); however, for those of you who do not, using Function 3 (erase) key will give you a running clock in the lower left hand side of the screen when using the A-Maze-Ing solid state module. Likewise, the quickest previous time through the maze appears and remains until a person beats the time and then it is updated. I did not find any mention of this in the manual.

Submitted by Donna Griffin.

Editor's Note: The preceding Best Of The Newsletter is a reprint from the September, 1983 issue of the HUGger Newsletter.

LIBRARY BITS

By Dennis Sherfy

KNIGHT'S TOUR is a fascinating program in BASIC which is listed in our library under the name KNIGHT'S. It is actually a puzzle. To try this puzzle, you must know the movement of a Knight in the game of chess.

The Knight moves one square up or down, then two squares right or left. Alternatively, it can move one square left or right, then two squares up or down. This move will always shift the Knight from one color square, to a square of the opposite color. This is the hard part.

The object of the puzzle is to start your Knight on the square of your choice, then move it to every other square on the board---without visiting any square a second time. It can be acomplished, but it is difficult. It requires considerable thought and the ability to plan ahead.

You can spend several hours trying to solve this puzzle. If you give up, the program provides a solution to the problem.

GOLF is an Extended BASIC game for one or two players. It presents 9 different holes, complete with trees and sand traps. An arrow located next to the ball can be pointed in 8 different directions. A golfer shown in the upper left part of the screen shos you how hard you are going to hit the ball.

Instructions are weak in this program. You are told that for player # 1, the S D keys control the direction of the arrow. The Q key controls how hard the ball is hit. There is nothing about player # 2! For player # 2, the J K keys control the arrow, and the Y key controls how hard the ball is hit. This game can be played by young and old alike. Joysticks are not required.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
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Consumer Products Group

December 23, 1983

Dear 99'ers,

As many of you already know, I am transferring to the Semiconductor Group of TI since our withdrawal from the Home Computer business. I would like to take this opportunity to let you all know that I enjoyed working with you over the past year. I wish you all the best in the future.

This "Care Package" contains a Manual and the System Diskette for the language TI FORTH. Please note carefully the information in Chapter 3 (Dedication). FORTH is a powerful language on the TI-99/4A, and we hope it can be spread to any and all who can use it by the User Groups. Also included is a copy of a message sent to all known retailers of the TI Home Computer. Thirdly, enclosed are the latest two press releases from TI's Consumer Products Group concerning Home Computers. And last, but not least, is an interesting picture of the TI-99/4A's Memory Archetecture. If a picture is worth a thousand words, this one ought to help a little to clear up some of the information in the Editor/Assembler Manual!

You need not continue to send me copies of your group's newsletter. I have enjoyed them immensely in the past as have the other folks in the TI Home Computer Division, and we all thank you for sending them. Since this Division is closing down, the program to defray up to $200 of your advertising costs has been terminated. I strongly encourage you to get in touch with the other Local and International User Groups. There are a lot of very talented, knowledgeable, and motivated people out there; share the wealth!

Again, thank you very much for a year that will always bring back fond memories. Good luck to you, and keep on computing!

Sincerely,

Edward K Wiest
Users Group Coordinator
Home Computer Division

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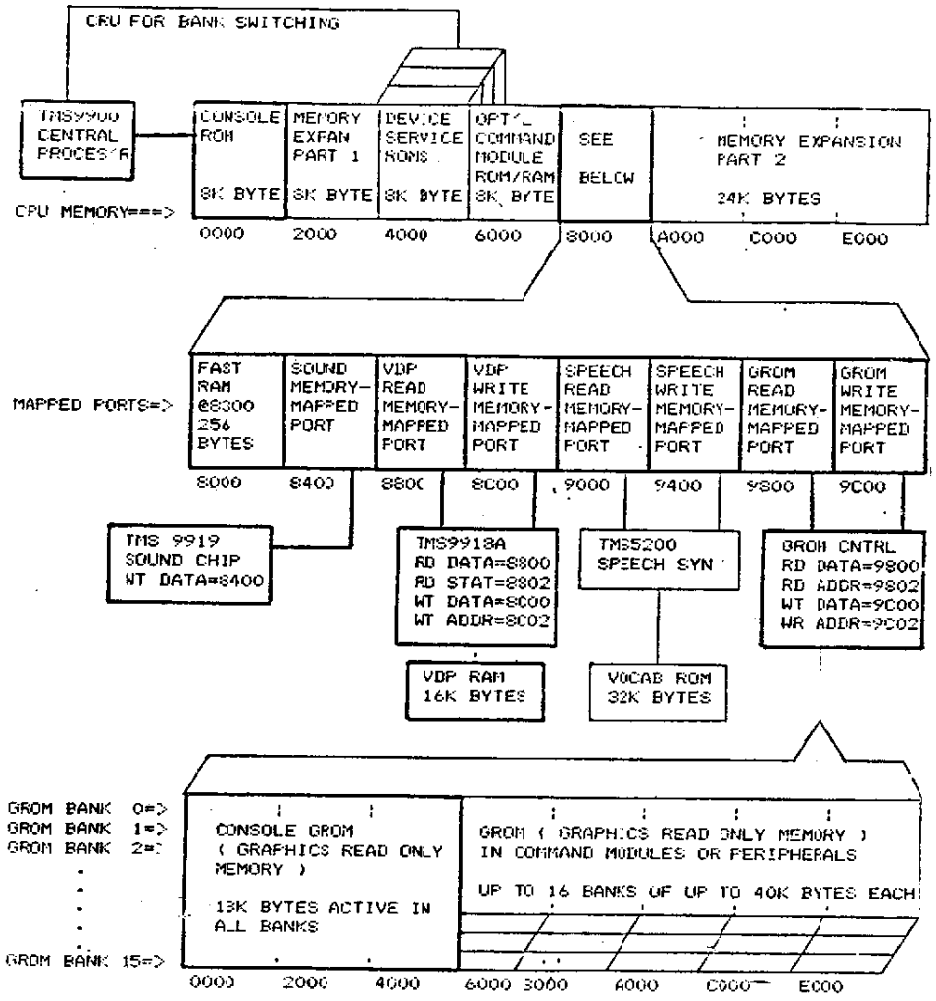
TI-99/4(A) MEMORY ARCHITECTURE



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